FOREST INSECT CONDITIONS IN WISCONSIN

1952

Prepared by
Forest Entomologists
Wisconsin Conservation Department
Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin

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REPORT ON FOREST INSECT CONDITIONS IN WISCONSIN IN 1952

The following is a brief general report of forest insect conditions as noted in Wisconsin in 1952. The reports come from cooperators within the Conservation Department and from others in cooperating agencies as the State Department of Agriculture, University of Wisconsin, U. S. Forest Service, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, Soil Conservation Service, County Agents, industrial foresters and others. Reporting was done on a voluntary basis. Only those positive reports in which the information was verified were used. Approximately 320 reports were used in compiling this information.

For lack of a better criterion of abundance, the following was used:

absent = no pests found on host trees.

scarce = a few individuals present; no perceptible damage.

moderately abundant = damage general throughout area of infestation and possibly some form of decadence evident; center of infestation may show severe damage.

very abundant = damage severe throughout area of infestation; some trees may be dead and others in a dying condition or insects may be doing maximum amount of damage of which they are capable of doing.

* Indicated a critical forest pest.

* 1. FOREST TENT CATERPILLAR, Malacosoma disstria (Hbn.)

Small outbreaks of this insect were found in Douglas, Washburn and Sawyer Counties in areas isolated from each other but along heavily used roads. The infestations were in Pattison Park and the northeast corner of Douglas County, about two miles north of Spooner in Washburn County and at Round Lake In Sawyer County. The infestations were light to medium and in no instance were the trees completely defoliated. There was a heavy flight of adult insects in July throughout the greater part of Douglas County and the northern part of Bayfield County. In anticipation of an impending epidemic, an egg survey was conducted in December. Based on the egg band count, complete defoliation can be expected in most of Douglas and upper Bayfield County. The infestation can be expected to be light in southeast Douglas County, lower Bayfield, upper Burnett and Washburn and parts of Sawyer. Only 6 out of over 3,000 egg bands collected were old egg bands. In the heavily infested areas, the egg bands averaged 38 bands per tree (6" D.B.H.); lighter areas averaged 17 bands per tree and fringe areas averaged 4 bands per tree. Complete defoliation is expected where 6 or more egg bands per tree are found. In laboratory tests run on the eggs, 3% were found to be parasitised, 6% infertile and 91% fertile. Under controlled conditions, all of the fertile eggs hatched. The areas of infestation are predominantly aspen.

This pest is not considered to be very important in Wisconsin from a forestry standpoint but due to the wide publicity it will receive, it was put on the critical list. Circulars showing areas to be affected in 1953 together with description and control procedures were distributed in February.

* 2. LARCH CASEBEARER, Coleophera laricella (Hbn.)

Except for small isolated areas, this insect can be found throughout the entire state wherever tamarack grows. There has been a very noticeable decline in the casebearer population in Marinette and Oconto Counties; this was attributed to severe late spring frosts.

* 3. RED-HEADED PINE SAWFLY, Neodiprion lecontei (Fitch)

A general increase in abundance of the red-headed pine sawfly was noted over most of the state. Severe infestations occurred in Sauk, Richland, Waupaca, Lincoln, Adams and Marquette Counties.

Scattered infestations occurred in Outagamie, Oneida, Iowa, Buffalo, Pepin and Juneau Counties. These infestations were small and ranged from light to moderate in population density. Over 1100 acres of plantations were sprayed. Most of this work was done by hand with back pumps.

* 4. SWAINE'S JACK PINE SAWFLY, Neodiprion Swainei (Midd.)

This insect was reported for the first time this year. It reached epidemic numbers in Sauk and Richland Counties and did severe damage to young jack pine plantations. It fed on red pine in some instances. Some 400 acres were sprayed from the air in these counties.

* 5. INTRODUCED PINE SAWFLY, Diprion simile (Hartig)

This sawfly was reported in the St. Paul area in 1938. It continues to move in all directions and has been found in 15 counties. It attacks all pines but damage has been most severe to white pine. Some sawlog timber has been killed in Polk County during the past two years. The insect is found in all stages of development throughout the summer; broods are heaviest in June - July and September. The infestation appears to have reached its peak and is subsiding.

* 6. LARCH SAWFLY, Pristiphora erichsonii (Htg.)

The larch sawfly was found scattered in Douglas, Bayfield, Ashland, Iron, Vilas, Burnett, Washburn, Sawyer, Price, Oneida and Lincoln Counties. The incidence is considerably higher than last year; areas in Bayfield County were most heavily hit and damage was generally light.

7. WHITE PINE SAWFLY, Neodiprion pinetum (Nort.)

A light infestation of white pine sawfly was reported in Sheboygan County. Little damage occurred.

8. JACK PINE SAWFLY, Neodiprion banksianae (Roh.)

This potentially destructive insect was found on several trees in Washburn and Juneau Counties.

9. Diprion frutetorum

There is no approved common name for this insect. It was reported in Wisconsin for the first time. Several specimens were collected in Langlade County. Host trees include red pine, Scotch pine and white pine.

*10. SARATOGA SPITTLE BUG, Aphrophora saratogensis (Fitch)

Damage by this insect has been severe in Oconto, Marinette, Florence, Forest, Vilas, Oneida and Langlade Counties. Damage was primarily to jack pine

during the drier years; red pine plantations were severely damaged the past 5 years. A total of 1700 acres were sprayed by plane in Oconto, Marinette and vilas Counties. Control was very good. Permanent check plots were established in a number of areas to check the effect of control and to determine the need for spraying.

*11. PINE TUSSOCK MOTH, Olene plagiata (Wlkr.)

The pine tussock moth has been reported scarce in Washburn and Douglas Counties in 1952. Approximately 3000 acres of jack pine were sprayed in Douglas County in 1951.

*12. JACK PINE BUDWORM, Choristoneura sp.

This budworm continued at a low level in Douglas County. A close watch is being kept in an effort to determine a population trend.

*13. WHITE PINE WEEVIL, Pissodes strobi (Peck)

White pine weevil was moderately abundant in the upper half of the state in open grown white pine, jack pine, and white spruce and scattered Norway pine plantations. Norway spruce was severely hit in some areas in the central region.

14. PITCH NODULE MAKER, Petrova albicapitana (Henrich)

Abundant over most of the state and causing severe weakening of the main stems of jack pine in plantations.

15. JACK PINE EUCOSMA, Eucosma sonomana

Generally light except in small areas in Vilas and Marathon Counties.

16. PINE TORTOISE SCALE, Toumayella sp.

Heavy in a jack pine plantation in Marinette County.

17. RED HUMPED OAKWORM, Symmerista albicosta (Hbn.)

Approximately 1800 acres known to have been defoliated by this insect in state. Largest areas were in Jackson, Portage and Marathon Counties. Although aerial spraying was done, the department made no such recommendation.

18. ROOT COLLAR WEEVIL, Hylobius radicis (Buchanan)

This insect is on the wane with the disappearance of much of the Scotch Pine.

Other insects of minor importance reported on of which no details will be given are listed below:

Red Pine Midge	Thecodiplosis sp.
Zimmerman Pine Moth	Dioryctria zimmermani (Grote)
Pine Webworm	Telralupha robustella (Zell.)
Walking Stick	Diapheromera femorata
Spruce Gall Aphid	Chermes abietis (Linn.)
Balsam Fir Gall Midge	Ironida balsamicola (Lint.)
Birch Sawfly	Croesus latitarsus (Nort.)
Pine Bark Aphid	Pineus strobi (Htg.)
Walnut Datana	Datana integerrima (G & R)
Allegheny Mound Ant	Formica exsectoides (Forel.)

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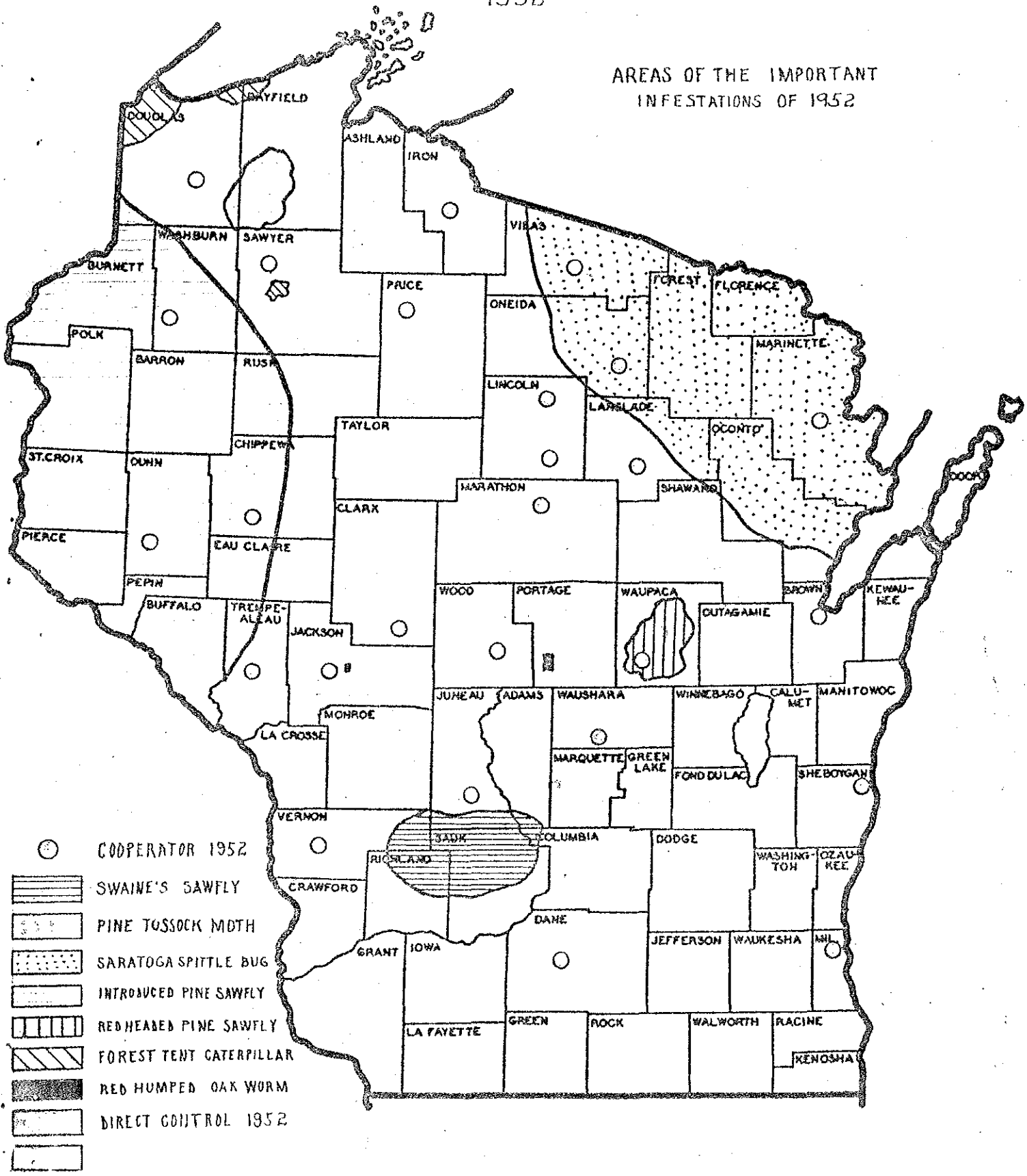

THE NUMBER OF DETECTION COOPERATORS WILL BE MORE THAN DOUBLED IN 1953